

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam*

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 1, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Assistant United States Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio will continue to serve as the Southern District's Election Officer for San Diego and Imperial Counties in connection with the November 2, 2004 general election. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tenorio, consistent with long-standing Justice Department election day practice, will be responsible for overseeing the District's receipt and handling of complaints of voting rights abuses and of election fraud.

Two years ago, in October 2002, United States Attorney General John Ashcroft established a Department-wide Ballot Access and Voting Integrity Initiative. The goal of the Initiative is to counter discrimination at the polls and to deter election fraud by prosecuting offenses arising from such conduct whenever it occurs. The Department's long-established practice of assigning Assistant United States Attorneys as District Election Officers furthers the goal of the Initiative. The assignment of a District Election Officer is intended to ensure public confidence in the integrity of the electoral process by providing a local point of contact to whom the public can report possible violations of voting rights and/or election fraud while the polls are open on election day.

In order to respond to complaints of voting rights abuses or election fraud on November 2, 2004, and to ensure that such complaints are directed to the appropriate authorities, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tenorio will be on duty while the polls are open in San Diego and Imperial Counties. He can be reached by the public on election day at (619) 557-7843 or (800) 544-1106 ext. 7843.

Complaints about ballot access problems or discrimination also can be made directly to the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division's Voting Section in Washington, D.C. at (800) 253-3931 or (202) 307-2767.

United States Attorney Lam stated, "Abuses of voting rights and election fraud both dilute the worth of votes honestly cast and corrupt our representative form of government. Such conduct will be dealt with promptly and aggressively. Anyone who has information concerning possible voting rights abuses or electoral corruption should make that information available immediately to my office, the FBI (858-565-1255), or the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division."